



RESTRICTION ELECTION FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE: June 11, 2001 (06-11-01)
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PAGES, INCLUDING COVERSHEET: 4
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TO EXAMINER: Afremova, V.
ART UNIT: 1651
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/733,266
FAX/TELECOPIER NUMBER: (703) 308-4315

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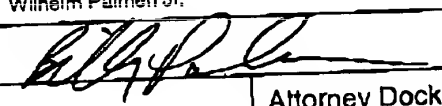
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile-filed under 37 CFR § 1.6(d) with the United States Patent and Trademark Office addressed to : Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 at (703) 308-4315.			
Typed or Printed Name	Wilhelm Palmen Jr.		Date
Signature			June 11, 2001
RESTRICTION ELECTION Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket	STAN209	
	First Named Inventor	Kuo et al.	
	Application Number	09/733,266	
	Filing Date	December 8, 2000	
	Group Art Unit	1651	
	Examiner Name	V. Afremova	
Title: <i>Methods for Modulation of Oocyte Activation</i>			

Sir:

The election is made in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed May 29, 2001, which set a one-month period for response, making this amendment due on or before June 29, 2001. Accordingly this response is timely filed.

Applicants elect for prosecution the invention of Group I, claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11 and 13-18, drawn to an *in vitro* method of modulating oocyte activation.

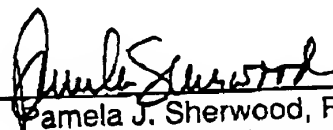
Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a Telephone Conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 11, 2001

By:


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CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF RESTRICTION ELECTION

1. A method of modulating oocyte activation, the method comprising:
administering a modulator of nitric oxide levels to said oocyte.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said administering step is performed in combination with fertilization of said oocyte.
3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein said oocyte is a mammalian oocyte.
4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said oocyte is a human oocyte.
5. The method of Claim 2, wherein said modulator of nitric oxide levels is a NOS inhibitor, and wherein said administering step prevents oocyte activation.
8. The method of Claim 2, wherein said modulator of nitric oxide levels is NO, an NO donor, NOS, or inducer of NOS, and wherein said administering enhances oocyte activation.
9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said administering is performed *in vitro*.
11. A method of preventing fertilization of an oocyte for contraception, the method comprising:
contacting an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase with said oocyte prior to fertilization, wherein said oocyte is prevented from activation.
13. The method of Claim 11, wherein said oocyte is a human oocyte.
14. A method of enhancing oocyte activation, the method comprising:
contacting said oocyte with at least one of: nitric oxide synthase, a precursor of nitric oxide, and an enhancer of nitric oxide synthase expression, wherein said oocyte is activated to re-enter the cell cycle.
15. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said activation is performed in combination with fertilization.

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16. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said activation provide parthenogenetic activation.
 17. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said activation is performed in combination with nuclear transfer.
 18. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said oocyte is a human oocyte.
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